

POW situation Southeast Asia

Laos

Our best estimate is that there are 292 military and 9 civilians unaccounted for in Laos. STATINTL

The Communists admit to holding only one American: he is a Continental Airline pilot who went down in May 1973. [REDACTED]

A family delegation consisting of families with MIAs visited a principal Pathet Lao spokesman and misunderstood him to say that the Communists had ~~other~~ Americans other than [REDACTED] STATINTL

Although there is some dispute as to what was agreed upon, the Pathet Lao are holding to the line that they will release prisoners (in our case this means [REDACTED] only after the coalition government is formed. STATINTL

Cambodia

There have been intelligence reports from low level sources that there are Americans held in Cambodia. As you know, each military service assumes principal responsibility for their MIAs. Also in Thailand there is a Joint Resolution Center which has responsibility for these matters.

General

Apparently Goldsmith has farmed out his request throughout the Executive Branch and the figures for Laos (the 292 and 9) represents an agreed position. Discrepancies in these figures leads to all kinds of complications. Also, FYI apparently the US Government is banking heavily on what Kissinger can do in Paris and the Kissinger effort is the key effort now and no one wants to upset it. All of the above general comment is for your information only [REDACTED]. 25X1A 25X1A

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